

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/18/13 – 3/31/13**

DISTRICT 1

COs Ryan Aho, Trey Luce, Dennis Gast, David Miller and Doug Hermanson participated in a group patrol on Keweenaw Bay. One subject was issued a ticket for fishing without a license and his Lake Trout was seized. An illegal ice shanty was also seized that displayed neither a name nor address, and had been on Keweenaw Bay for several days. One ticket was also issued for operating an ORV with no license. A large number of anglers were contacted and overall angler regulation compliance was good.

CO Brian Bacon followed up on a trespass complaint from deer season when new information was received. CO Bacon identified the suspect and conducted an interview. The suspect stated he had been waiting for an officer to stop by, and confessed to shooting the deer and not paying attention to the private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon came across a vehicle parked along a two track in Dickinson County. Contact was made a short distance from the vehicle, and it was discovered that the two subjects were cutting firewood without a permit. CO Bacon also discovered a loaded/uncased rifle on the seat of the truck as well. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol after dark when he observed a vehicle driving without headlights. A traffic stop was initiated and the CO found the subject was driving while license suspended. This was the subject's fourth arrest for driving while license suspended, and in addition there was no insurance or current registration on the vehicle. The subject also had two outstanding warrants for his arrest and he was lodged in the Luce County Jail.

COs Mike Hammill, Kevin Postma and Kyle Publiski conducted a surveillance patrol on a local lake in Mackinac County. A pair of anglers were doing quite well on bluegills. The pair left the lake for a period of time and then returned to continue fishing. With a little leg work the COs figured out that they had hidden bags full of bluegill in a snow bank down the road. Upon contact the two were uncooperative and wouldn't admit to the overlimits. Once they realized that the COs knew a little more than they anticipated they confessed to their illegal activity, and tickets were issued. During the same patrol the COs contacted another subject with 37 bluegill over the limit. A ticket was issued and the fish seized. Restitution is being sought for the 37 bluegill.

CO Kyle Publiski was on fish patrol and was in the process of checking several anglers. The CO encountered a subject who claimed to be fishing with only three lines, but was in close proximity to four other lines. The CO continued checking anglers and asking

about the four unclaimed lines. As he spoke to several subjects he saw that the original subject was, all of the sudden, handling the four lines in question. The CO continued to watch as the man worked the four lines in addition to the three lines he originally claimed. After some time the CO returned to speak with the man and questioned him again. Embarrassed, the subject finally admitted that all the lines were his and he started to work the extra lines because he had forgotten that the CO was still in the area. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Evink contacted the operator of an ORV on US-2 in Schoolcraft County. The operator's driving privileges were suspended and revoked. The operator also had previous warnings for operating while suspended and along a highway. CO Evink lodged the operator in the Schoolcraft County Jail.

DISTRICT 3

CO Steve Speigl responded to a suspicious situation where an angler noticed several dead waterfowl in the Elk Rapids Harbor. Upon investigation and assistance from the DNR Wildlife Division, it was determined that the birds had most likely died of botulism in the fall, froze under the ice and resurfaced after the ice melted.

CO Bill Webster continues to conduct taxidermy inspections and recently closed two cases where individuals shot two large trophy bucks, an eight and ten point, without licenses, and then bought their hunting licenses after the fact. Reports have been submitted to the prosecutor's office for charges.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint with Charlevoix County animal control regarding a pet raccoon that bit a person on the arm and leg. Animal control handled the human-animal bite issue, while CO Erratt determined the raccoon was taken from the wild when young. A ticket was issued for possessing captive wildlife without a license.

CO Jon Sklba photographed a subject fishing next to the "Closed to Fishing" sign at the Ocqueoc River weir, and then issued a ticket for the violation.

COs Eric Bottorff, Andrea Erratt, Jon Sklba and Sgt. Greg Drogowski continued to work ice fishing patrols for closed season take, and issued several tickets for fishing with too many lines.

COs in Cheboygan County have been responding to complaints of an individual cutting trees on the rail-trail, with the subject hiding each time COs arrived. Several loads of firewood have been confiscated. Finally, CO Mike Feagan was able to make contact with the subject while in the act of cutting trees. A ticket was issued, and more firewood seized.

CO Andrea Erratt had received a snowmobile trespass complaint a few weeks ago in which the landowner photographed two snowmobilers that had gotten stuck on his well-

posted property. The photographs showed an out-of-state registration that was unreadable. Last week, CO Erratt observed two snowmobiles in a different location; one running without a headlight. Upon making a traffic stop, she observed both snowmobiles had identical registrations to the photograph, and the riders had matching clothing descriptions. The registrations were from Maine, where the owner stated he had purchased them. Violations included failure to transfer registrations, no trail permits, no headlight, and the prior recreational trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

While conducting a patrol on snowmobiles, COs Rebecca Hopkins and Justin Vanderlinde observed a mudder jeep being operated on a Benzie County snowmobile trail. The jeep operator failed to stop at a stop sign on a portion of the snowmobile trail which happened to be a seasonal county road. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the jeep that had no vehicle registration. The operator was under the influence of marijuana, driving without a valid operator's license which was suspended, and wanted on two outstanding arrest warrants. The operator was lodged in the county jail on several charges.

CO Steve Converse hiked cross country to an isolated bayou off the Manistee River and located three subjects targeting spawning Northern Pike during the closed season. CO Converse observed the subject catch and keep two undersized pike. When contact was made, CO Converse determined that one of the subjects also did not possess a fishing license. Tickets were issued for taking pike during the closed season and fishing without a license.

CO Carla Soper was on patrol when she observed three subjects operating ORVs on the roadway and on city property closed to ORV operation, but was unable to contact them. Several days later, CO Soper observed some ORVs operating on the same city property, riding double and none of the operators were wearing helmets. When contacted, the owner of the ORVs admitted that he knew they were not to be on city property as he was denied permission when he had asked. The owner also admitted having knowledge that the roads in the township were closed to ORV operation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn checked a boat as it came to shore along the Muskegon River. The men advised they were having some mechanical trouble and were unable to go upstream due to the strong current. CO Ginn noticed that there was about two inches of water inside the 14 foot flat bottom boat. Upon inspection CO Ginn saw that the boat had been customized and that the flotation had been removed. The operator stated that they had to remove the old bench seats to make room for the taller pedestal style seating. The boat was also not registered. Enforcement action was taken on the registration violation along with safety information relayed concerning the boat construction.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling closed sections of trout streams when she located three subjects with fishing equipment walking along a closed stream. One of the subjects, a fishing guide, attempted to convince the CO that the section of river they were on was recently opened to fishing. In addition to possessing fishing gear along a closed trout stream, all three subjects were trespassing on private property. The private land manager was contacted and denied having any knowledge of the identity of the subjects. Enforcement action was taken for the recreational trespass violations.

CO Brian Lebel was patrolling state land in Mecosta County when he observed old footprints in the snow leading into a wetland area. Following the tracks into the swamp, CO Lebel located several untagged traps. One trap had a tag attached which led to a residence. At the residence, CO Lebel located a Pine Marten which had not been sealed prior to the sealing deadline. The traps the CO located had been loaned to another subject. After tracking down the second subject, that subject admitted to trapping during the closed season for raccoon and had not purchased a fur harvester's license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO John Huspen checked anglers using tip-ups who stated they were fishing for walleye and northern pike. The CO advised the anglers that walleye and northern pike seasons were closed. The anglers were also riding double on an unlicensed ORV and were not wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn assisted at the scene of a snowmobile personal injury accident in Kalkaska County. The snowmobile operator failed to negotiate a curve and hit a tree. The subject was airlifted to the hospital.

CO Steve Lockwood and Sgt. Jon Wood responded to a complaint of two anglers with a possible overlimit of bluegill on a lake in Clare County. As the two COs neared the scene, another report came in that the suspects had left the ice and were driving away. The COs located both vehicles and initiated a traffic stop. Both subjects were released after determining that they were in combined possession of only 43 panfish. However, after a follow-up check of their nearby fishing location, it was discovered that an additional 98 bluegill had been left on the ice – some of which were still alive. The COs were able to track down the anglers about five miles away and enforcement action was taken for an overlimit of panfish.

While patrolling the Au Gres River in Iosco County, COs Mark Papineau and Brian Olsen observed several subjects actively fishing a closed portion of the stream. The subjects were targeting steelhead which were gradually starting to make their way into the rivers to spawn. In addition to fishing a closed section of stream, the subjects were also fishing illegally within 100 feet of the lamprey weir. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren MacNeill assisted at the scene of a fatal snowmobile accident in Alcona County in which a rider left the trail and struck a tree. The investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 6

While patrolling on a back county road, CO Seth Rhodea observed the driver of a vehicle disregard a stop sign at an intersection. CO Rhodea made a traffic stop on the vehicle and found the driver operating without a driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late night patrol, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a group of anglers who had been spearing suckers in a Huron County stream. Upon checking the anglers' fish, two pike were located mixed in the bag with their suckers. When asked who speared the pike, the anglers were honest and owned up to who had speared the pike. In addition, four of the five anglers were fishing without licenses. Tickets were issued.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Saginaw River and talking with several anglers when he observed two other anglers across the river casting illegal lures in the river during the closure for spawning. The CO was able to get to the opposite side of the river just in time to catch the two as they were leaving the area. During conversation, the anglers admitted to attempting to catch walleye and that they knew it was closed and stated they were going to release everything they caught. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Josh Wright heard over his radio that a Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper was involved in a foot chase only a couple miles from his location after the trooper found a rock of crack on a suspect. CO Wright was first on the scene and the trooper lost sight of the suspect when he fled into the woods. The CO was able to find the suspect's tracks about a half hour later. CO Wright along with the trooper and a local deputy tracked the suspect for about two miles and located him at a residence trying to get a ride from the homeowner. When the suspect was taken into custody, more drugs and drug paraphernalia were found on him.

CO Josh Wright received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint from a person who found a fox den on their property that was dug out with a shovel and a dead fox close by. CO Wright followed tracks from the den to another piece of property where they ended and from there vehicle tracks led to a house. The CO talked to the homeowner and found that they had a friend come over and told them their dog got stuck in the fox den. CO Wright tracked the dog owner down and found out that he was training his new terrier to go in to dens and kill animals. The dog owner knew that the dog was after a fox, he did not have a hunting license and did not know whose property he was on. Enforcement action was taken for taking a fox out of season and trespassing.

CO Josh Wright could see a large amount of smoke coming from the Tuscola County shoreline. When he arrived at the location of the fire on state land, he discovered that the shoreline was on fire, a Bobcat with a brush hog was mowing the marsh and a few people were sitting on ORVs tending the fire. None of the individuals had permits or permission from the DNR or DEQ to do any work on the state land. They told the CO they were doing it so they could see the water from their homes again. Several

violations were addressed and enforced along with the fire department being dispatched to put out the fire that was quickly getting out of control.

During a major snowstorm and white-out conditions, Gratiot County Central Dispatch advised that several vehicles were involved in accidents on US-127 and injuries were unknown. There was only one MSP trooper on duty so CO Quincy Gowenlock headed to the crash location to assist. While on scene, four additional vehicles lost control and went into the center median. As the tow truck driver began hooking up the first car, the CO observed a vehicle rapidly approaching the white-out. The vehicle lost control and veered toward the tow truck driver. The CO yelled at the driver to give him warning of the approaching vehicle. The tow truck driver was able to jump out of the way as the vehicle went head on with the tow truck. Approximately five seconds later a second vehicle lost control and again headed right for the tow truck driver. The CO again yelled at the tow truck driver and again he was able to run out of the way as the vehicle came through and collided into the rear of another vehicle. The trooper and CO provided medical assistance until emergency medical personnel arrived. The officers eventually were able to get the scene cleared after dealing with the 10 car accident.

While on patrol in Isabella County, CO Larn R. Strawn received a phone call from a local deputy who was responding to a complaint of shots fired where witnesses described hearing loud shots followed by BB pellets showering down on their homes. The deputy inquired about the possibility of a hunting season being open and briefed the CO on the complaint. The CO recognized the area and the similarities to RAP complaints in the past from that area and responded to the location. While on the scene the CO searched a wooded area near the residential neighborhood and located two subjects hunting crows. The subjects had oriented their blind and decoys directly toward the homes in the area. One of the hunters had no identification or hunting license. Both hunters were using the firearms in a reckless manner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee responded to a complaint of a quail trap set in a field behind a residential neighborhood. The untagged trap was set in a field and contained 19 quail. The CO was able to track down the owner who explained he was using the quail to train his dog. The man did not have a permit to hold live wildlife in captivity, failed to tag his trap, and placed the trap on private property without permission. Tickets were issued.

On November 17, 2013, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly arrested a subject who was operating a tractor, drinking a beer and holding an AR-15 in his right hand. The subject was intoxicated, failed to give the Sgt. the firearm when ordered, and then resisted arrest. He was taken into custody and charged for resist and obstruct a police officer, three counts of possessing a firearm while intoxicated, possessing an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle, and possessing a firearm while committing a felony. The defendant took a plea bargain and was recently sentenced. Along with jail time served, the defendant was ordered to pay \$2,225 in fines, must attend anger management counseling, was placed on an alcohol tether for 60 days, was placed on probation for two years, cannot possess a firearm for two years and must forfeit his AR-15 and surrender all other firearms.

DISTRICT 7

COs Greg Patten and BJ Goulette were checking anglers on the Muskegon River when they found one person fishing without a license. A computer check indicated the angler was wanted on two outstanding warrants with a bond of \$10,000. The angler was ticketed for the fishing violation and turned over to local police for transport to the county jail. A second angler was observed along the river using a fishing rod, but when contacted claimed to be untangling a line for his son. COs had, of course, observed his activity for some time prior to the contact and had witnessed the adult handle the fishing equipment as a young boy played away from the river.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a RAP complaint in Allegan County of a homeowner hearing a shot fired at dark near the road in front of his residence. CO Mshar responded to the area and checked for any suspicious activity or a possible dead deer. It was snowing very hard so most vehicle tracks were covered. CO Mshar was able to locate a gunshot deer approximately 40 yards off the road. Surveillance was set up on the deer to see if the suspects returned. After a short period a vehicle returned and stopped twice by the area where the deer was located. The vehicle then continued northbound and was followed for a short distance. The vehicle pulled into a driveway and contact was made with two male subjects. After separating the driver and passenger, CO Mshar was able to get both subjects to confess to their involvement. The driver admitted to stopping by the house and being asked by the shooter to help him go find a deer he shot. The passenger (shooter) admitted to driving his vehicle down the road and seeing several deer. He then returned to his residence, loaded a shotgun then drove back to where the deer were. He advised he shot out the driver's side window killing the deer. He then returned to his house and when the other subject stopped by he asked him to take him back down to the deer. The deer and firearm were seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Gary Raak contacted a subject on a lake closed to taking fish. The subject initially claimed he didn't know the rules, but after a lengthy discussion he finally admitted that he did. Thirteen bluegill and one crappie were confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney responded to a RAP complaint of a subject keeping an out of season walleye. The complainant gave a description of the vehicle. CO Mooney responded from his residence and was able to locate the vehicle headed on its way home, approximately a mile from the lake. Contact with the driver led to the seizure of an out of season walleye and an out of season largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney responded to a complaint of trespass and located five rabbit hunters, three of whom were trespassing on the complainant's property. Enforcement action was taken at the request of the landowner.

CO Steve Mooney was checking subjects leaving a lake and observed a subject quickly load his bucket in his truck. Upon contact, a 10 inch largemouth bass was located. The subject was ticketed.

CO Greg Patten was conducting a patrol of the Musketawa Trail in Muskegon County, when he contacted an adult subject with two four-wheelers and passengers. During the contact it was established the riders and passengers were juveniles, were riding the rail trail, trespassing, had no helmets and had no ORV licenses or titles. The adult was ticketed for operating with a suspended license, warned for numerous violations and all were returned home.

CO Dave Rodgers was patrolling the Grand River when he checked an angler leaving the river with a limit of steelhead. The angler was fishing and in possession of the steelhead without a license and was ticketed for the violation.

CO Mike Mshar responded to a RAP complaint regarding a subject shooting a turkey from his back deck in Ottawa County. Contact was made with the suspect and a full confession was obtained for killing the turkey. The subject stated that he had to kill it because the turkeys were tearing up his yard. CO Mshar pointed out a large deer feeder in the back yard with corn underneath it and asked what it was for. The suspect advised it was only for the squirrels and deer. The turkey and shotgun were seized and the subject was charged with taking a turkey during closed season, and discharge of a firearm in a safety zone.

CO Gary Raak reported hearing a loud ORV type of machine while at his residence. Upon investigation he was able to make contact with a subject operating a side by side ORV Razor that had been modified with a large motorcycle engine, complete with a turbo charger. Enforcement action was taken for operating illegally in the Barry State Game Area.

CO Chris Holmes obtained warrants for a subject who had possessed two untagged turkeys. The subject is also in court proceedings for two deer he had killed during the 2012 deer season without licenses. The subject was also convicted in 2012 for shooting another deer without a license.

CO Chris Holmes watched three subjects trespassing and walking down posted Amtrak railroad tracks. The CO exited his vehicle to make contact with the subjects and could hear the Amtrak train blowing its horn heading in their direction. CO Holmes contacted the subjects and removed them from the tracks approximately 45 seconds before the train passed their location at 70 mph. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes was checking an area along the Kalamazoo River and observed a subject slouch down in her seat when she saw him. Being suspicious in nature and in a high fishing activity area, CO Holmes made contact with her. CO Holmes found that the subject had just smoked methamphetamine. Marijuana, methamphetamine, and open intoxicants were located in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Chris Holmes observed a female trying to jump out of a moving vehicle. CO Holmes also observed that the two adult occupants were verbally fighting. CO Holmes stopped the vehicle and found the driver to be suspended, and in possession of methamphetamine and a "one pot" methamphetamine lab. The female occupant was high on methamphetamine. A clandestine lab clean up team from the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department arrived on scene, the lab was secured and charges will be sought for methamphetamine related charges.

DISTRICT 8

COs Brian Fish and Jeff Goss worked on a complaint of a subject trapping muskrats during the closed season. After two days of watching for the subject, CO Goss located him and determined he was trapping for beaver. Beaver season was still open; however, he was warned for trapping on Village property without permission.

CO Derek Miller was off duty and came across a two person personal injury vehicle accident. He advised both parties that he was an off duty officer and was able to provide aid to a woman with minor injuries. He was also assisted by an off duty deputy. They were able to obtain all proper paperwork from the drivers and keep traffic flowing. The scene was taken over by deputies after a short time.

CO Derek Miller followed up on a complaint of subjects keeping walleye and bass during the closed season, and located the subjects fishing at the reported location. CO Miller observed the anglers for a while and made contact when one subject started packing his belongings. The first angler stated that he wasn't fishing and that he was just walking through the park. CO Miller advised the angler that he had been watching him fish for approximately 45 minutes and that he needed a fishing license. The subject did not have a fishing license and had warrants for his arrest out of Saginaw. Enforcement action was taken. CO Derek Miller then contacted the original subject in the complaint. The subject stated that he left his fishing license at home. The subject had a valid warrant, but did have a fishing license. CO Miller questioned the subject about the complaint, and at first the subject stated that he wasn't fishing at that location the day prior. When CO Miller advised him that people identified him and his vehicle the day prior, the subject admitted to fishing and keeping several fish during the closed season. The subject advised that he kept three fish during the closed season and was trying to catch more when CO Miller contacted him. The subject was transported to the county jail and issued a ticket.

CO Derek Miller was driving on the freeway and observed a large column of black smoke. He located a large pile of debris burning next to a residence and contacted the residents on the property and asked them about the burn. They stated they were burning a little bit of trash and mainly just pine trees. When CO Miller went to look at the pile, he immediately observed three separate tractor tires burning on the pile along with some other debris, causing all of the black smoke. He re-contacted the subjects on the property and told them that he found the burning tires. One subject admitted to putting

the tires on the burn pile approximately a half hour prior to the officer's arrival. A ticket was issued.

CO Kyle Bader stopped at a residence to check on a fire that was producing a large amount of black smoke. The resident was building the fire to burn material from a trailer he was tearing down. Luckily for him, he hadn't started burning the trailer. Unluckily for him, he had a warrant out of Indiana and they were willing to extradite. He was lodged in the Coldwater jail.

CO Rich Nickols received a call late Saturday night regarding a possible party that was held on State Land in the Rose Lake Wildlife Area. The next morning CO Nickols investigated the area of the party and located a large amount of trash in the parking lot and followed it back to where the party had taken place. CO Nickols located two female subjects near a smoldering bonfire. The women had apparently lost their car keys during the party and searched all morning before finally locating them. According to the women, there were approximately 200 people in attendance and the party was organized and posted on Facebook. The women were given 24 hours to round up some of their friends that were at the party and clean the area up or they would be held responsible for all the litter.

While on foot patrol at Sleepy Hollow State Park, CO Rich Nickols heard several shotgun blasts in rapid succession. The shots continued and he was able to track down two subjects who were shooting cans, bottles and whatever else they came across. The two had been out rabbit hunting but became bored when they did not see any rabbits so they began shooting everything else. The subjects did have licenses and were wearing hunter orange. The subjects were ordered to clean up the area and use only the DNR shooting range for target practice.

CO Daniel Prince observed two men operating ORVs in the Crooked Lake DNR Access Site in Livingston County. The men were not wearing helmets and other violations included operate ORVs with no license and operating on the public roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger completed an investigation into a subject shooting three deer and purchasing his licenses afterwards. The subject thought by purchasing the licenses, he would be able to keep the deer. An interview with the subject indicated that he hadn't thought he would get a chance to shoot one deer, let alone three. A warrant on four counts was authorized.

CO Bigger completed an investigation and a warrant was authorized regarding a poaching case where the subject was using the tags of others to shoot antlered deer. A 10 point, two seven points, a six point, and a four point were taken. The investigation also indicated other violations that had been taking place throughout the 2012 archery and firearm seasons.

CO Dan Bigger contacted a subject who shot three deer during the firearm deer season and had not tagged any of them. The subject shot two bucks and a doe. The deer were located and not tagged as suspected. A warrant was authorized.

CO Pete Purdy was contacted by personnel at the Brighton Recreation Area in reference to a personal watercraft (PWC) dumped at the Chenango Lake boat launch. A search of the area revealed paperwork with an owner's name. CO Purdy contacted the subject who confessed to dumping the PWC. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy assisted local police officers with a subject who barricaded himself in a house. This occurred when the local officers attempted a traffic stop on the vehicle that was the subject of a BOL in reference to the vehicle driving recklessly. The subject fled to the residence of a friend and barricaded himself inside. He was taken into custody by Livingston County SWAT without further incident.

CO Pete Purdy encountered a subject in the state game area who was illegally target shooting. A check through LEIN revealed the subject had a three year old felony possession of cocaine warrant. Due to lack of manpower the holding agency was unable to meet with CO Purdy to pick up the subject. He was advised and released.

CO Shane Webster assisted Sgt. Troy Bahlau on a stop of two individuals operating ORVs on the roadway in a busy section of town. The operators claimed to not know the roadways are closed to ORV use and also were without helmets or ORV permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn swore to a warrant that had been requested over a year ago in which COs Derek Miller and Thorn located an untagged deer after interviewing a man who had accidentally shot himself with a .22 caliber rifle while waterfowl hunting.

CO Todd Thorn checked a popular fishing location on the Grand River near Eaton Rapids and observed two males in a motorized boat fishing under the bridge. A closer look revealed that the boat did not have any registration decals or numbers posted. Contact with the two men uncovered a number of violations. The vessel was not registered, there were no personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board, and one of the men did not have a fishing license. CO Thorn had also seen two gun cases in their vehicle and upon closer inspection found one of the firearms loaded in the chamber as well as the magazine. The subjects stated that they had just finished small game hunting. The angler without a fishing license also did not have a small game license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn contacted a group of four anglers in Lansing. Two of the men produced 2011 fishing licenses and said that they did not have time to purchase a 2012 license because they had been out of the country. They were asked when they had returned from their trip and they stated January. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Kris Kiel checked for illegal fishing activity at the Spillway Dam and observed an angler casting and retrieving a large crank-bait. When contacted and questioned, the subject stated that he was fishing for Northern Pike and that his brother said that Northern Pike season was open. The CO informed him otherwise and provided a fishing guide. The angler's treble hooks were also larger than 3/8" and he was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel received numerous complaints regarding an ice shanty that had fallen through the ice on Anchor Bay, Lake St. Clair. CO Szyska was able to get a name and address off of one side before it totally sank. The COs attempted to contact the owner many times but he never seemed to be home. CO Kiel finally made contact with the subject, who stated that Chesterfield Police Department had been to his home about the same issue. The subject stated he had sold the ice shanty a few years ago on Craig's List. CO Kiel explained that he had to find the documentation or it would fall back on him as it was his property at one time. The subject could not find the paperwork and painstakingly removed the ice shanty, which was now submerged on the bottom of the lake. Only a small portion of the ice shanty was visible on the surface of the water. In lieu of receiving tickets for various violations, the owner removed the ice shanty. The operation took the subject the better part of a day.

While checking Lake St. Clair, CO Todd Szyska observed a small vessel with two occupants fishing offshore near Gino's Surf. CO Szyska returned to the spot and contacted the anglers as they pulled up to the shore. The vessel had not been registered with the State since 1991, and there were no PFDs in the vessel. CO Szyska advised the individuals about marine safety, water temperatures/hypothermia, etc., and issued tickets for the infractions.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel responded to a complaint in St. Clair County of dumped deer carcasses. The complainant was worried about ground water contamination and that his small son had acquired a pair of deer legs and was using them to make deer prints in the mud. The deer parts were dragged over to his property from neighboring property by his dog. The COs contacted the suspect and he stated that he had let several friends place their deer carcasses on his land. The complainant had been using them for coyote bait and they were left in the hole of an old barn foundation. In lieu of receiving a ticket for improper burial of animals, the suspect agreed to dispose of the carcasses properly.

CO Ken Kovach reports heavy fishing action at night in the Port Huron SGA as well as the wall in Port Huron. CO Kovach is seeing steelhead, suckers, and Northern Pike as far inland as Yale. CO Kovach issued four different tickets to anglers at the Yale Dam as well as the wall in Port Huron for no fishing licenses.